

Appl. No. 09/878,665
Amdt. dated October 1, 2003
Reply to Office action of May 21, 2003

Claim Amendments

E 1 Claim 1 (cancelled)

E 2 Claim 2 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs are pivotable into a horizontal position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

E 3 Claim 3 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface for hollow dishes when at least some of said legs are pivoted into at least one of said oblique positions.

E 4 Claim 4 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface when at least some of said legs are pivoted into an oblique position half-way between said horizontal position and said vertical position.

E 5 Claim 5 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form stops for retaining hollow dishes in said horizontal position.

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Claim 6 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form stops for
retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said oblique
positions.

Claim 9 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim 2, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed
on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining
hollow dishes.

Claim 8 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim 2, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed
on said base wire; and

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said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

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Claim 10 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 22, wherein said prongs having at least two legs are L-shaped.

[Claims 10-15 (cancelled)]

Claim 12 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 24, wherein said prongs having at least two legs are L-shaped.

Claim 13 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 12, wherein said retainer is pivotable into a horizontal position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim 14 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said legs forms a set-down surface for hollow dishes when said retainer is pivoted into at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim 15 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 27, wherein at least one of said legs forms a stop for

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retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said horizontal position and said oblique positions.

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Claim 20 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 24, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

[Claim 21 (cancelled)]

Claim 22 (previously-presented): A dish rack for accommodating dishes, comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from

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said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being
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cont pivotable between different pivot positions about a respective
longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

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Claim 23 (previously-presented): In a household dishwasher, a
dish rack for accommodating dishes, the dish rack comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends
and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each
of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said
base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from
said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being
pivotable between different pivot positions about a respective
longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

Claim 24 (previously-presented): A dish rack for
accommodating dishes, comprising:

at least one base wire and a plurality of prongs forming a
retainer;

said plurality of prongs each having two legs and an
intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said

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prongs being connected to said base wire in a vicinity of said intersection and distal from said free ends, for securing dishware, and at least some of said prongs being pivotable between different pivot positions about a longitudinal axis of said base wire.

Claim 25 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 22, wherein some of said prongs are pivotable into three functional dish rack positions, including:

a first functional dish rack position in which a first one of said legs is substantially perpendicular to a plane defined by said dish rack base and a second one of said legs is substantially parallel to said dish rack base plane;

a second functional dish rack position in which said first and second legs enclose acute angles with said dish rack base plane; and

a third functional dish rack position in which said first leg is substantially parallel to said dish rack base plane and said second leg is substantially perpendicular to said dish rack base plane.